

# MILITARY & VETERANS SECTOR UPDATE

CORONAVIRUS  
DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)

FRIDAY, MARCH 26, 2021



*Thank you to everyone who was able to join us for this week's telebriefing for military, veterans, and their families!*

## **TELEBRIEFING SCHEDULE UPDATE:**

***Our telebriefings will now take place every second and fourth Thursday of the month.***

**Make sure you join us Thursday, April 8<sup>th</sup> from 10 - 11 AM for another online forum and Q&A. To submit your questions in advance, [click here](#).**

## **Special Thanks to our March 25<sup>th</sup> Telebriefing Guests:**



**Gary Rossio**  
Champion  
Physical & Emotional Health  
(PEH) Group  
San Diego Veterans Coalition



**Anthony LoBue**  
Co-Champion  
Physical & Emotional Health  
(PEH) Group  
San Diego Veterans Coalition

---

## County Resources for Military & Veterans



Visit our [County site for Military/Veterans/Families and Serving Organizations](#)

General COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions – [Click here](#)

Military and Veterans-Specific Frequently Asked Questions – [Click here](#)

Benefit Information & Assistance and Other Professional Services for Military Veterans and Dependents – [Click here](#)

---

## In Case You Missed It...



**The San Diego Veterans Coalition (SDVC)** is a non-profit organization in San Diego County with over 150 unique members and participating organizations, businesses, and agencies. The purpose of the SDVC is to serve the needs of San Diego regional veterans, their families, and significant others. The Physical and

Emotional Health (PEH) Action Group was created by the SDVC to serve as a conduit of information and as a catalyst for activity in all SDVC endeavors related to physical and emotional health of our veteran population in the San Diego County area. Their efforts in the community identify resources to maximize delivery of timely effective, and value added services directly to veterans and their support network. The overall goal of the PEH Action Group is to promote good health and well-being. To learn more about the SDVC and its Action Groups, [click here](#). To attend a PEH Action Group meeting, contact Gary Rossio at [garyrossio@gmail.com](mailto:garyrossio@gmail.com). To view all the events held by the SDVC and PEH, [click here](#).

---

## Events and Announcements

**Courage to Call** is hosting another drive-thru food distribution event at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Mar. 27 at 9445 Farnham St., San Diego, 92123. Food is distributed on a first come, first serve basis. No RSVP Required, but please bring your Military/Veteran ID.

**SDVC Monthly Meeting** active duty military, veteran's and their families are invited to attend the San Diego Veteran's Coalition's next monthly meeting at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, April 2. For details, visit [sdvetscoalition.org](https://sdvetscoalition.org).

**Wellness Wednesday** is a virtual event hosted by Courage to Call to teach military members, veterans, and their families about wellness topics and helpful resources every Wednesday at 4:00 p.m. To participate in Wellness Wednesday, visit the [Courage to Call Facebook page](#) and join through Facebook Live.

**North County Veterans Stand Down** is a four-day event that enables homeless veterans to receive much-needed services in a safe, friendly, drug-free and secure environment. It will be held at Green Oak Ranch at 1237 Green Oak Road, Vista, CA 92081 from Thursday, April 14 through Sunday, April 18. For details, visit [NCStandDown.org](https://NCStandDown.org).

---

## All Veterans, Their Spouses, & Caregivers can get COVID-19 Vaccinations from the VA

All veterans, their spouses, and caregivers can get COVID-19 vaccinations from the VA under the SAVE LIVES Act signed into law on March 24.

Covered individuals can receive a vaccine from VA due to the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency. Under the bill, covered individuals are:

- Veterans who are not eligible to enroll in the VA health care system
- Specified Veterans who are eligible for hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care abroad
- Family caregivers approved as providers of personal care services for Veterans under the VA's Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers
- Caregivers of Veterans participating in the VA's Program of General Caregiver Support Services
- Caregivers of Veterans participating in the VA's Medical Foster Home Program, Bowel and Bladder Program, Home-Based Primary Care Program, or Veteran Directed Care Program
- Civilian Health and Medical Programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs recipients
- Veteran spouses

To learn how to get a COVID-19 vaccine from the VA, [click here](#).

---

## San Diego Women Tests Positive for Brazilian COVID-19 Variant

A San Diego woman in her late 40s is the first local case of the COVID-19 variant first identified in Brazil. The woman had not been vaccinated, was not hospitalized, and since she had no known travel history, is believed to have been exposed to someone in the community.

A second case of the P.1. or Brazilian variant was detected locally, but the person, who also had not been vaccinated, is not a San Diego County resident. Four cases of the P.1. coronavirus variant have been reported in California through March 19.

There is some evidence that the P.1. and other new variants are more easily spread, but the P.1. variant is not believed to cause more severe illness or increase the risk of death. Wilma Wooten, M.D., M.P.H., County public health officer says “San Diegans should not be alarmed. The COVID-19 vaccines currently available do offer some protection against most of the variants. People should continue taking the preventive measures that work against all variants of the novel coronavirus.”

To read the full County News Center story, [click here](#). If you are eligible to receive a vaccine, [click here](#) to make an appointment. To learn more about the Health Equity Quartile in San Diego County, [click here](#).

---

## COVID-19 Funeral Assistance

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought overwhelming grief to many families, and FEMA will provide financial assistance for COVID-19-related funeral expenses incurred after January 20, 2020. FEMA will begin to implement COVID-19 funeral assistance in April. Additional guidance is being finalized and will be released to potential applicants and community partners as soon as possible. In the meantime, people who have COVID-19 funeral expenses are encouraged to keep and gather documentation. For more information on FEMA's COVID-19 Funeral Assistance, [click here](#).

---

## Early Treatment for COVID-19 is Available at the Monoclonal Antibody Regional Center (MARC)!

Monoclonal antibody treatment is available for persons with mild or moderate COVID-19 whose symptoms developed within the last 10 days and are at high risk of getting very sick from COVID-19. It is recommended to receive the potentially lifesaving treatment within 72 hours of when COVID-19 symptoms begin. The Monoclonal Antibody Regional Center (MARC) in Escondido is open 7 days a week to treat all persons for free who are medically eligible, regardless of health insurance or immigration status. **If you are 65 years of age or older and think you qualify, call (619) 685-2500. If you are younger than 65 years old, talk to your doctor** to see if you are medically eligible for this treatment and to receive a referral. To check if you are medically eligible for MARC treatment, [click here](#). For questions, e-mail [COVIDtreatment@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:COVIDtreatment@sdcounty.ca.gov)

---

## Free MTS and NCTD Rides to Vaccination Appointments

MTS and NCTD are offering free rides for everyone in the region who needs a lift to their vaccine appointment. Ride any bus, trolley, SPRINTER or COASTER for free with proof of vaccine appointment. [Click here](#) to view MTS's transit trip planner with vaccine sites to help residents get to their appointments. For more information, visit the [MTS website](#).

---

## County of San Diego 2021 Emergency Rental Assistance Program

The County of San Diego's Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) has been extended until March 31<sup>st</sup>. ERAP helps eligible households in qualifying areas who have been financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The program provides payment assistance for renters behind on rent and utilities.

You may be eligible to receive rental assistance if your:

- Household income is at or below 80% Area Median Income
- Household has experienced a financial hardship directly related to COVID-19
- Household is at risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability
- Household does not receive any other forms of rental subsidy such as Section 8 or other rental assistance programs, rapid rehousing assistance, or rental assistance from non-profit agencies.

To apply for ERAP, [click here](#). For veteran-specific rental assistance, [click here](#). If you do not have internet access and need assistance in completing an application, please call (858) 694-4801.

---

## Mental Health Resources

**Courage To Call.** Every day, current and former service members and their families deal with the complex maze of issues that accompanies military life. Often times the most difficult problem is not knowing where to turn when you need help. Courage to Call is a free, confidential, veteran-staffed, 24/7 helpline dedicated to assisting active duty military personnel, veterans, reservists, guard members, and their families, regardless of discharge status. For more information or to chat with a veteran, visit [www.courage2call.org](http://www.courage2call.org), or call 1-877-698-7838, or 2-1-1.

**The County's Access and Crisis Line (ACL)** is confidential, toll-free, and available 24/7. If you or someone you care about is experiencing a suicidal or mental health crisis, please call 1-888-724-7240.

**VA Veteran Suicide Prevention and Crisis Line**, 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1 to talk to someone, or Send a text message to 838255 to connect with a VA responder.



**The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline**, 1-800-273-8255, provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress, and prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones.

More resources to help you manage mental health and cope during the COVID-19 pandemic can be found [here](#).



**Additional County of San Diego COVID-19 telebriefings are available throughout the week (via Zoom) for a variety of community sectors.** For information, updates, and Q&A with other sectors, view the full telebriefing schedule [here](#).

## COVID-19 Resources



To request English or Spanish posters for your installation, please e-mail [COVID-Military-Veterans@sdcountry.ca.gov](mailto:COVID-Military-Veterans@sdcountry.ca.gov) with your contact information, drop-off location, and delivery instructions. A member of our Outreach & Education Team will contact you to coordinate delivery and obtain any additional details (if necessary).

Additional resources and materials are available [here](#) for your use.

**If you work or reside at a skilled nursing or long-term care facility and have not yet been contacted to schedule your COVID-19 vaccine appointment, please send an e-mail to [COVID-HealthcareStatus@sdcountry.ca.gov](mailto:COVID-HealthcareStatus@sdcountry.ca.gov)**

## Continue to Stay Informed



[County Coronavirus Website](#)



[Resources for Military, Veteran's & their Families](#)



[Resources & Materials](#)



[Testing Information](#)

